AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) A method for enhancing somatic recombination comprising promoting the homologous recombination of somatic cells in which DNA homologous recombination at a genetic locus is occurring by relaxing the chromatin structure of chromosomes in said somatic cells.

2. (Currently amended) An antibody production method comprising enehancing DNA homologous recombination at an antibody locus when producing antibodies from chicken-derived B cells ~~immunocytes~~ in which DNA homologous recombination is occurring at the antibody locus, by relaxing with a histone deacetylase inhibitor the chromatin structure of chromosomes in said chicken-derived B cells ~~immunocytes~~, and thereby obtaining diverse antibodies.

3. (Withdrawn) The method described in Claim 1, wherein the relaxation of the chromatin structure of chromosomes is induced by putting cells into contact with histone deacetylase inhibitor.

4. (Withdrawn) The method described in Claim 3, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

5. (Withdrawn) The method described in Claim 4, wherein the treatment concentration of trichostatin A is from approximately 0.5 ng/ml to approximately 5.0 ng/ml, and the contact treatment time is from approximately 2 weeks to approximately 6 weeks.

6. (Withdrawn) The methods described in Claim 1 wherein the cells are DT40 culture cells.

7. (Withdrawn) Immunocytes for which somatic homologous recombination has been promoted at a genetic locus by the method described in Claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn) Diverse antibodies produced by the method described in Claim 2.

9. (Withdrawn) The antibodies described in Claim 8, wherein the produced antibody is IgM.

10. (Withdrawn) A medicinal agent for the promotion of somatic homologous recombination at a genetic locus, and comprising a histone deacetylase inhibitor.

11. (Withdrawn) The medicinal agent described in Claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) The method described in Claim 2~~1~~2, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

14. (Previously presented) The method described in Claim 13, wherein the treatment concentration of trichostatin A is from approximately 0.5 ng/ml to approximately 5.0 ng/ml, and the contact treatment time is from approximately 2 weeks to approximately 6 weeks.

15. (Currently amended) The methods described in Claim 2, wherein the cells are DT40 culture cells.

16. (Currently amended) A method for producing an antibody which can bind to ~~said~~ a target antigen, comprising:

i) enhancing DNA homologous recombination at an antibody locus in chicken-derived B cells ~~immunocytes~~ in which DNA homologous recombination is occurring at said antibody locus by relaxing with a histone deacetylase inhibitor the chromatic structure of chromosomes in said chicken-derived B cells ~~immunocytes~~, whereby diverse immunocytes are obtained;

ii) preparing ~~a~~ said target antigen;

iii) contacting said immunocytes with said target antigen;

iv) selecting an immunocyte producing an antibody which can bind to said target antigen; and

v) culturing said immunocyte.